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# ◀ MARS NEWS ▶

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Volume 52, Issue 11

Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc

November 2001

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## NOVEMBER MEETING

The November program will be the election of officers for the next year. Each candidate will have a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to tell us a little about themselves. While the votes are being counted, Bill Heybruck, WA2EDN, will do a program on how to build your own personal computer.

### FROM THE EDITOR:

The newsletter is being sent to you early so if you are unable to make the club meeting, you can send in your absentee ballot. Because the slate of officers was not finalized until the club meeting, there are not bio sketches of each candidate in the newsletter. Each candidate will be given a few minutes at the beginning of the program to express their views on why they should be elected a club officer. If you use the absentee ballot, please follow the instructions very carefully on the ballot and mail it so that it is received by the secretary no later than Monday, November 26, 2001. NO ABSENTEE BALLOTS will be accepted at the meeting. Also, there is one member that was nominated for the board at the meeting that does not meet the eligibility requirements of the bylaws and his name is not on the ballot.

The invitation to the Christmas Party is again included in this newsletter. If you plan to come to the party, please send me your reservation along with your check no later than November 20, 2001. If you need directions to get to the party, go out to Elena's web site, [www.ridemaps.com](http://www.ridemaps.com) and download the map Elena did for the party.

If you have any questions on the party, send me an email or give me a call in the evenings at 704-948-6006.

Mary Hunt, N4MH



## From the President:

My friends, this is the last “President’s letter” you will see from me for a while. I am taking a break from being an officer or board member of the Club for next year or so. My family needs more and more of my time for the next few months, and I may, in fact, be on some sort of medical leave early in 2002. Recent personal events at home are consuming more of my free time, and my wife Sue also needs me more. My work responsibilities have also increased in recent months, in part due to staff reductions as a result of the downturn in the economy.

In a year or so, I anticipate being able to return to a more active role in the operations of the Club. I will not be completely idle, however. The Hamfest and public service committees will continue to be assisted by me. I will also help keep an eye on our repeaters, and try to help complete many of the projects we started this past year, but have not completed. These projects include an inventory of the Club’s assets, making improvements to the Club station at the Red Cross, installing a modem at our 145.29 repeater site (and repairing the modem at 145.23), and looking for ways to attract new members, especially young people.

I thank many of the members who have helped me and counseled me, as I sought their advice and opinions on the Club and amateur radio. These members include John White, Wilton McAllister, George Fryer, Mary Hunt, Jeff Blythe, Earl Fortner, Bill Turner, Daryl Sampson, and Mike Miranda. My heartfelt thanks go out to those people, and to others within the Club who have also shared their ideas, opinions, and criticisms. I am proud of what I’ve helped to accomplish but I always believe that I can do better. Perhaps this “year off” or longer will enable me to grow and improve, and to do a better job at leading this Club.

We completed another stint with the Crop Walk several weeks ago. I continue to be concerned by the trend toward the use of cell phones in public service events. This year, the people coordinating pickup vans for the Crop Walk also arranged for their own “communications”, which was not very effective. They discovered that if one vehicle was at Memorial Stadium, and the other was at Johnson C. Smith University, they were unable to communicate with each other. I have no problem with cell phones being used for non-critical communications between directors of an event, but I strongly believe that in “health and welfare” communications, amateur radio is the most effective, quickest, and reliable way to get the job done. The MS Society certainly understands this, and I believe that key personnel with the March of Dimes and the American Diabetes Association also agree. Other volunteers in these events or the Crop Walk do not always understand what we can do.

We need to do a better job of promoting our capabilities. We just completed the Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and had excellent participation, plus tests of how well we can communicate in various ways. I am concerned, however, that people will continue to be ignorant of our capabilities. I am concerned that they will be complacent, thinking that cell phones will do the job, and so forth. We discovered during Hugo and Floyd, and again in September with the terrorist attacks, that amateur radio WORKS when other means of communications are out. We must all be ambassadors and help promote amateur radio, and we must be ready to assist if the situation calls for it.

Thank YOU for allowing me to serve as your Club President. I look forward to assisting the officers and board of 2002 in whatever way that I can. As we approach the holiday season, may God bless all of you and your families.

73,  
Shawn, K4RSG

## MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 30, 2001

Vice President Wilton McAllister called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. President Shawn Goodin was unable to attend the meeting.

Wilton told the group that Sam Rolen W4SAM is seriously ill in University Hospital Room 421. A Get Well card was circulated. Wilton announced that the annual election was coming up and that candidates were being sought. The following persons were advanced as possible candidates.

**President**

Wilton McAllister. WB4PCS (Current Vice President)

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC (current board member)

**Vice President**

Vince Mates KF4LVC

**Treasurer**

John White WB2NHQ (Current Treasurer)

**Secretary**

Dave Stewart AF4ZK (Current Secretary)

**Board of Directors (3 vacancies)**

Bob Cole KD4IIN (Current Board Member)

Bill Grahling WB4IBW

Jim Payne W4JBP

Sherry Frey KE4LZE

Rick Hampton WD8KEL

The by-laws require that eligibility requirements be met for each of these offices. The requirements issue was not addressed at this meeting but will be reflected in the ballot.

John White discussed the excellent work performed by Bob Southworth KI4YV at Discovery Place over many years. Bob was given a standing ovation by the club.

Mary Hunt announced that VE examinations would be given at the Church on Nov 10. Exams to start at 9:00 AM. Please be there at 8:45 or so to fill out the paperwork. The Christmas Party will be held on Dec 1. Contact Mary for tickets. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Rick Hampton ran the Jamboree on the Air on October 20 & 21. Everyone had a good time.

Tim Slay will conduct a meeting at the Red Cross building on Monday Nov 12 at 7 PM to plan and schedule work needed to produce the MARS Hamfest next March. This is a good opportunity to participate and contribute to the hamfest that is critically important to the clubs financial well-being.

Daryl Sampson W4OH encouraged participation in ARES. Email Daryl at w4oh@arrl.net. The ARES website is at <http://ares.webnitro.net>

The formal program for the evening was cancelled because of nonappearance of the speaker. Mike Gates KF4UVO won the door prize, a Maha C777 smart battery charger.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

Dave Stewart AF4ZK

Secretary

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 9, 2001

Present: Shawn Goodin, K4RSG, President; Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Vice President; John White, WB2NHQ, Treasurer; Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Secretary; Board Members: Jeff Blythe KA4WYC; Bob Cole, KD4IIN; Bill Turner, W4WNT; Dave Wentzel, KD4ITI.

Shawn Goodin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

### Reports from the Officers:

President Shawn Goodin K4RSG – Shawn noted that the board meeting scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Vice President Wilton McAllister WB4PCS – Wilton discussed possibilities for programs for upcoming club meetings.

Treasurer John White WB2NHQ – John reported that income and expenses are in line with the planned budget.

Secretary Dave Stewart AF4ZK – Dave reported that he had gone over the member renewal papers for the 2001-2002 membership year that George Fryer gave him. Dave has updated the club database accordingly.

### New Business

The board voted to charge \$5 per person for the club Christmas Party. This charge is the same as last year.

The club is holding a Special Event at Discovery Place on Oct 13 and 14. This event commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Discovery Place.

Jamboree on the air will be held at Discovery Place on the week=end of Oct 20 & 21.

Shawn reminded us that the Crop Walk is coming up on Oct. 21.

Plans for a picnic were discussed. It looks like the spring of 2002 would be best time to put this together.

Dave Stewart AF4ZK

## \*\*\*\*\*ABSENTEE BALLOT\*\*\*\*\*

## MECKLENBURG AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, November 27, 2001

**VOTE FOR ONE FOR EACH OFFICE EXCEPT BOARD MEMBERS****PRESIDENT :**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC      \_\_\_\_\_ Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS

**VICE PRESIDENT :**

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Mates, KF4LVC

**SECRETARY :**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Stewart, AF4ZK

**TREASURER :**

\_\_\_\_\_, John White, WB2NHQ

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - - PLEASE VOTE FOR THREE (3) :**

\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Cole, KD4IIN

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Grahling, WB4IBW

\_\_\_\_\_ Sherry Conrad Frye, KE4LZE

\_\_\_\_\_ Rick Hampton, WD9KEL

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If you are unable to attend the November club meeting, this ballot may be used as an ABSENTEE BALLOT. Enclose the ballot in a separate sealed envelope marked BALLOT and put this envelope in another envelope and mail it to the Secretary. This outer envelope shall contain the name and call of the club member submitting the Absentee Ballot.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BY-LAWS — SAID ABSENTEE BALLOTS SHALL BE MAILED SO THAT THEY ARE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 27, 2001 WHICH IS THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING DATE.

Any Absentee ballot received thereafter WILL NOT COUNT. The envelopes marked BALLOT will be opened the tellers at the meeting. If the person sending in an Absentee Ballot attends the meeting, said person shall not vote at the member meeting.

The Secretary's address is:      Dave Stewart  
    113 Foxfield Lane  
    Matthews, NC 28105

# Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society

Cordially invites you and a guest to attend

our annual club Holiday Dinner Dance

To be celebrated at  
Idlewild Country Club, 10141 Idlewild Road,  
Mint Hill on

Saturday, December 1, 2001  
at 7:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner, Cash Bar, Door Prizes

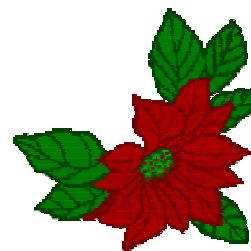
Music will be provided by  
The Wax Museum (a local DJ)

There is a nominal charge for the party this year. The charge is \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 a couple. Each member is entitled to bring one guest. Please complete the bottom of this sheet and return by November 20 with your check:



Mail to:

Mary Hunt, N4MH  
16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway  
Huntersville, NC 28078



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of persons attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check enclosed in the amount of:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner for member and one guest at \$5.00 each.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, November 10, 2001** — VE Test Session, East Baptist Church, Monroe Rd, 9 AM

**Tuesday, November 27, 2001** — Regular meeting and election of officers

**Saturday, December 1, 2001** — MARS Holiday Party

**Saturday, February 9, 2002** — VE Test Session, East Baptist Church, Monroe Road, 9 A.M.

**Friday, March 8, 2002** — Set up for Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair

**Saturday-Sunday, March 9-10, 2002** — Charlotte Hamfest and Computer Fair

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### About This Newsletter

MARS News is published monthly for the members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society. Permission is given to re-print any article, provided that credit is given to Mecklenburg ARS and the respective author. Subscription to the newsletter, via US Mail, is provided to club members. Complimentary copies are available to guests and prospective members.

The deadline for submitting material is the 10th of each month. Please submit newsletter material to: **Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, 16007 Wynfield Creek Parkway, Huntersville, NC 28078 948-6006 or office 892-3270, Fax Number 892-8326**

You may submit material via Electronic Mail to: [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org) or on 3.5" diskette. The files should be in TEXT or WORD format.

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**FOR SALE:** Epsom Color Stylus II Printer. \$50 OBO. Contact Mary Hunt, N4MH at 704-948-6006 or send an email to [n4mh@w4bfb.org](mailto:n4mh@w4bfb.org).

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## Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

### Officers and Board of Directors:

**President**

Shawn Goodin, K4RSG Email Address: k4rsg@arrl.net

**Vice President**

Wilton McAllister, WB4PCS, Email Address: wb4pcs@w4bfb.org

**Secretary**

Dave Stewart, AF4ZK, Email Address: af4zk@att.net

**Treasurer**

John White, WB2NHQ Email Address: wb2nhq@w4bfb.org

**Directors**

Jeff Blythe, KA4WYC, Bob Cole, KD4IIN ; Mac McCray, K4PDY; Bill Turner, W4WNT, Dave Wentzel, KD4ITI

**Meeting Place:**

East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Road (next to East Mecklenburg High School, near Conference Drive)

**Meeting Time:**

Last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

**Clubroom:**

Red Cross Building, 2425 Park Road, RM 023, Charlotte, NC Telephone 704-334-3900

**Club Repeaters:**

146.34/146.94 w/Autopatch. 144.69/145.29 w/Autopatch.

144.63/145.23, no Autopatch

449.60/444.60 w/Autopatch and P/T 100.0

Autopatches Access \*(don't unkey)+phone number. Disconnect #

222.80/224.40 w/Autopatch 145.01 Packet Digipeater, W4BFB-1

**METROLINA 2m EMERGENCY NET: 9:00 PM local time, daily on 146.34/146.94 featuring the ARRL Audio News feed on Sunday night. Alternate frequencies announced**

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### MARS News

Mary S. Hunt, N4MH, Editor

16007 Wynfield Creek Pkwy

Huntersville, NC 28078

See you at the next meeting —  
Tuesday, November 27, 2001